REPORT

OF THE

SHEFFIELD CONFERENCE,

OF THE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF

LATTER DAY SAINTS,

HELD IN

The Hall of Science, Rockingham Street,

SHEFFIELD,

MAY 19th, 1850.

President.

J. W. CUMMINGS.

Secretaries.

W. S. SAVAGE AND S. J. LEES.

NAMES OF BRANCHES.	NAMES OF PRESIDENTS.	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Removed by Letter.	Received by Letter.	Cut off.	Dead.	Emigrated.	Baptized.	Total.
Sheffield	El. J. V. Long	7	14	13	4	6	12	5	5	12	22	353
Nottingham	" Wm. Brewerton	5	11	4	4	3	9	4	2	0	68	282
New Brinsley	" B. Birch	1	5	3	1	0	3	5	0	0	7	48
Eastwood	" Jas. Stones	1	5	3	1	1	3	4	0	0	7	54
Heanor	" Wm. Stones	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	28	50
Arnold	" Wm. Hazzledine	2	4	2	0	0	4	3	0	0	20	88
Calverton	" Thos. Lester	3	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	16	66
Mansfield	" M. Slack	1	3	3	5	4	2	11	1	0	6	127
Sutton	" M. Slack	0	2	3	2	0	2	4	0	0	11	47
Rotherham	" J. Hill	3	6	4	2	0	0	12	1	0	14	94
Scholes	" J. Ward	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Whiston	" R. Senior	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16
Woodhouse	" H. Roper	5	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	53
Deepcar	" G. Birtles	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	17
Doncaster	" G. Yeardley	2	7	3	2	3	5	2	0	2	8	44
Misson	" Nicholson	1	4	2	1	4	0	2	0	0	17	40
Stambro'	" Palfreyman	3	2	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	15
Pilley	" Wadsworth	3	5	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	35
Skellow	" Wright	1	4	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	12	47
Chesterfield	" I. Allen	4	6	6	4	11	0	7	4	1	13	198
Bolsover	" E. Crich	1	2	3	1	14	2	1	0	0	0	26
Whaley	" Cope	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	10
Staveley	" Cartledge	0	3	1	1	9	0	1	1	0	2	19
Mattersey	" J. Haigh	1	3	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	45
Gringley	" J. Walker	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Attercliffe	" Paulucci	3	2	4	1	1	2	5	1	1	3	30
Calver	" M. Fletcher	0	3	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	29
Clay Cross	" J. Cutts	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	10	29
Shirland	" Hunt	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	18
Total		56	105	67	41	68	47	77	16	16	284	1903

By an examination of the records it has been ascertained that there were more represented at the last Conference than were on the Books.

REPORT, &c.

According to previous announcement the Conference assembled in the Hall of Science, May 19, 1850, at half-past Ten o'Clock, A. M. The Meeting was called to order by Elder Brewerton, after which it was moved and carried that Elder J. W. Cummings preside over the Conference assembled, and W. S. Savage, and S. J. Lees, act as Secretaries. The Meeting was then opened by singing the first hymn and prayer by the President; after which another hymn was sung by the choir. The President then arose and exprest his pleasure in meeting the Saints in Conference. And said we owe to God a debt of never-ending gratitude for past and present blessings.

We have met this morning under very propitious circumstances, and for very important purposes, viz.—to transact business in the name of the Lord for the furtherance of his cause, and the well-being of his people in this part of his vineyard.

We are highly favoured to-day with the presence of the Presidents of several Conferences, viz.—Elder Flanigan, Elder Marsden, and Elder McNaughton. Also Elder Forsgreen, recently from the GREAT SALT LAKE, CITY STATE OF DESERET. N. A. who is on his way to SWEDEN to preach the Gospel to that nation, and Elder Dykes who is on his way to DENMARK, to preach the Gospel to that nation, and also many of the travelling Elders and Officers of the Conference.

Surrounded by so many faithful servants of God, I do not feel that responsibility that I otherwise should, for with the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

We will endeavour to expedite business, that we may hear from the visiting brethren, and learn of the prosperity of the work of God in other parts. Before proceeding to business I wish to make a few remarks, that we may do things understandingly. The various resolutions will be put in due form for your approval or disapproval.

The authorities of the Church will be presented in their proper order, Therefore remember when you sanction, by your uplifted hands, the authorities of the Church, you thereby covenant to sustain them by your faith and works.

It should be remembered that if we adopt measures for the benefit of the work of the Lord, we are under obligation to carry those measures into effect.

It is one thing to adopt measures and another to carry them out.—Therefore let us be deliberate in all we do, and endeavour to be guided by the unerring spirit of God, and let us pray that his spirit may predominate in our midst. After the above and many other appropriate remarks were made, the following Resolutions were put to the Meeting and unanimously adopted:—

First,—That we acknowledge and sustain BRIGHAM YOUNG the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in all the world, and H. C. KIMBALL, and WILLARD RICHARDS, as his councillors.

Second,—That we uphold the twelve apostles, as God's special witnesses to all nations.

Third,—That we uphold and sustain Orson Pratt, as the President of the British Isles, assisted by F. D. Richards, and that we listen to their instructions in all things.

Fourth,—That Hyson Green be organized into a Branch, and that Elder Newbold preside over the same.

Fifth,—That Lambley be organized into a Branch, and that Joseph Waine preside over the same.

Sixth,—That Normanton be organized into a Branch.

Seventh,—That Shirland be organized into a Branch, and that Thomas Hunt preside over the same.

Eighth,—That Whaley be organized into a Branch, and that Stephen Coupe preside over the same.

Ninth,—That Elder W. Brewerton labour in Nottingham district as before.

Tenth,—That Elder M. Slack labour in Mansfield and its vicinity as before.

Eleventh,—That Elder T. Hardy labour in Chesterfield and vicinity as before.

Twelfth,—That Elder J. V. Long retain the Presidency of Sheffield Branch, and labour in the vicinity of Sheffield and Rotherham.

Thirteenth,—That Elder Henry Kirk devote the whole of his time to the ministry, and labour in the Doncaster district, under the direction of the President of the Conference.

Fourteenth,—That Peter Paulucci be ordained to the office of an Elder, and retain the Presidency of Attercliffe Branch.

Fifteenth,—That Mark Fletcher be ordained to the office of an Elder, and preside over the Calver Branch.

Sixteenth,—That W. Cartledge be ordained to the office of an Elder, and preside over the Stavely Branch.

Seventeenth,—That we establish a Conference Fund, as recommended by President O. Pratt in the 4th number of the 12th volume of the Millennial Star.

Eighteenth,—That we accept the past labours of Elder J. W. Cummings, and uphold him by our prayer and means as the President of this Conference.

Nineteenth,—That Elder J. W. Cummings continue to be the general Book Agent for the Conference.

Twentieth,—That Elder T. Hardy take the Book Agency for the Chesterfield district.

After the above Resolutions were passed, the number of officers present were called for—when it was ascertained that there were present, One High Priest, three Seventies, twenty-nine Elders, thirty-six Priests, eighteen Teachers, and eleven Deacons.—Total, 98.

The next item to present before the Conference is the Financial Affairs, and I am happy to inform you that the Conference is free from debt.

The Book Agency stands thus. When I entered upon my duties as President of this Conference the First of January, 1850, there was owing the office at Liverpool

	£.	s.	d.
The sum of.....	55	10	4
Books and Stars received since	73	0	0½
Total.....	£128	10	4½

Remitted to Liverpool.....	60	0	0
Books in the hands of Sub-agents	51	16	10
Books in hand of General Agent	16	13	6½
	£128	10	4½

It will be seen by the foregoing that we have enough in hand to answer the demand of the office at Liverpool. And I wish to impress upon the minds of the sub-agents the injunction laid upon them, viz.—That they trust out no books, and that they adopt measures to collect immediately what they have standing out, (if any) and I hope the Saints will not neglect to avail themselves of the opportunity of furnishing themselves with the various publications of our church.

The Conference has donated to Mrs. Cummings,

The Sum of.....£13 0s. 9d.

Amounts donated for Conference purposes	£4	4	0
Collected for Elder Dunn.....	1	6	0

I have now laid before you the particulars of the financial affairs of the Conference. And I now wish to give some general instruction to the Officers & Saints present, respecting their future course of procedings. Respecting ordinations let those who may be called to office be ordained in their respective branches, as directed in the Book of Covenants, Section 2nd, paragragh 16th. If this plan be adopted it will save the Conference assembled much time, which can be occupied in preaching and giving instructions.

I wish no one to be called and ordained in any Branch in this Conference so long as I preside, without my knowledge and approbation. And I hope and trust that every Officer and Saint will listen to counsel, and use every exertion to roll forth the great work of God. Ye Officers see that you do not tarnish the Holy Priesthood that you have received.—Remember your high and holy calling. Let us be united in our efforts, and the great work in which we are engaged will roll on, and no power can hinder. Should we become like Babylon divided, we shall no longer be Christ's. Therefore, let us be united and governed by the spirit of God, and all will be well. I would say to the Officers—preach nothing to this generation but the first principles of the Gospel, and when they have obeyed them and wish to know more, tell them to go to Zion: and if they ask where is Zion? tell them in America. And if they ask what is Zion? tell them the pure in heart.

Let us exert ourselves and do our work in this land, that we may be gathered to Zion, where we can rest and learn more perfectly the ways of the Lord.

Many more appropriate remarks were made, after which the Conference adjourned till half-past Two P. M.

HALF-PAST TWO, P. M.

Conference met pursuant to adjourment—opened by singing and prayer, after which the President introduced to the audience Elder Forssgreen, who arose and said—I am thankful for the privilege of meeting with the Saints upon this occasion. It is seven months to-day since I left my family in the VALLEY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE STATE OF DESERET, N. A. to go and preach the Gospel to my own nation (Sweden.) Elder Forssgreen spoke at some length, describing the valley of the mountains which he had so recently left, enumerating the various facilities, and giving a brief description of the soil. He also said that the climate was very salubrious, and that the Valley of the Great Salt Lake abounded with springs, such as Cold, Warm, Hot, Salt, Sulphur, Vinegar, &c. all of which were conducive to the health of the inhabitants. Universal health prevailed. Many who were sick when they arrived in the Valley had become healthy and strong, and the Saints there were greatly blessed in temporal as well as spiritual things. He also gave a brief description of the order in which the city was laid out, and said to the Saints they must not expect to get to Zion without some exertion, and they might expect to have many difficulties to surmount; but those that persevered to the end would wear the crown.

Elder Flanigan (President of Birmingham Conference,) was next introduced upon the platform, who expressed his gratification in meeting in Conference with the Sheffield Saints; he said he was pleased with the proceedings of the day thus far. Perhaps some may think it strange that we should mingle Politics with Religion;—but our spiritual and temporal salvation are so inseparably connected that we cannot do otherwise. There is incorporated in the RELIGION OF JESUS CHRIST, GATHERING, BUILDING, PLANTING, PHILOSOPHY, ASTRONOMY, in fact all the arts and sciences, and every true principle in the world, and I rejoice in the hope of such a salvation as this church offers to the world, which is temporal and spiritual. Inasmuch as Angels were punished for transgression, we should be careful lest we fail to obtain so great a salvation.

I wish the Saints were emancipated from the bondage of this country. Many people in this land thank God that they can worship him under their own vine and fig-tree, while, at the same time, they have neither vine nor fig-tree, neither have they an inch of gronnd to plant one on. But the Saints will realize that saying in its most literal sense. When that saying of scripture is fulfilled "They that worship under their own vine and fig-tree," &c. It will do away with the great titles, such as Reverends, Dukes, Lords, Gods, Father in Gods, and all other Gods and Demi-gods, which is blasphemy to the true and living GOD. Many of our enemies who have heretofore prophecied of our speedy destruction now admit that we are destined to become a great and mighty people. In this last they are right. These, with many other pointed remarks, were made by Elder Flanigan, at the close of which the meeting adjourned till Six o'clock, P. M.

SIX O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment.

Elder McNaughton, (President of Hull Conference,) was introduced to the audience: who said I will not occupy much of your time, inasmuch as there are those present who are better qualified to edify you than I am.

It is with feelings of no ordinary kind that I arise to address you. My feelings of sympathy were aroused by the relation given by Elder Forsgreen, of the hardships endured by the Saints in establishing themselves in the Valleys of the Rocky Mountains, where they have prepared a place for us to gather too. Great has been the difficulties the servants of God have had to contend with in establishing Zion. But they would not exchange their hope of immortal glory for all the titles and glittering gold of this world.

Therefore, beloved Saints be faithful, never forget that the promises of God are conditional.

By continuing in well doing you will one day be admitted into the House of the Lord, where you will learn more perfectly his ways. Elder McNaughton made many other appropriate remarks.

Elder Marsden, (President of the Bradford Conference,) was next called upon to address the meeting. He first read from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, page 191, "Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God," &c. While the preceding speaker was speaking of the harmony of music I thought of this passage, and of the harmony of truth. Many people entertain a very unfavourable opinion of us.—They suppose we consign all to eternal damnation, or that we believe that all went to hell, before the Gospel was restored by Joseph Smith. But we do not entertain such views. We have a great antipathy to such notions. We entertain a very different opinion of God. He is a God of love and will reward all people according to their works.—There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars," &c. Paul was caught up to the third heavens, which proves that there are more than one. Elder Marsden spoke at some length upon the Principles of the Gospel to the edification of all present.

Elder Marsden was followed by Elder G. P. Dykes, who arose and said, I will sum up in a brief manner what has been said by the speakers that have preceded me this evening. After doing so he commended to the Saints the many good principles they have had laid before them by their President and others who have addressed them this day. Elder Dykes then went into a detail of the First Principles of the Gospel, speaking of faith, repentance, baptism, the laying on of hands, &c. He also exhorted the Saints to faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity; assuring them that if these things be in them and abound, they will neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of God. In conclusion, the President made a few brief remarks, expressing his gratitude to God for the abundance of his spirit that had been enjoyed by the Saints during the day, and said unity has characterised all our movements this day, and may such be the blessings of all Saints for ever, Amen.

On the 12th instant a Conference was held in St Ann's chapel, Nottingham, for the purpose of transacting business for the well being of the work of the Lord in that vicinity.

On Tuesday the 21st at 5 o'clock, P. M. 280 Saints sat down to tea in the Hall of Science. Many Saints from the surrounding country were present. After tea the time was occupied by the Saints in speaking, Singing, and Recitations till near eleven o'clock—a unity of feeling prevailed, and all expressed themselves satisfied with the proceedings.

SOME THINGS THAT I LIKE,

I like a system fraught with grace,
With knowledge truth and love;
Such as the Saints of Latter Days,
And angels have above.

A man of truth I like to see,
Whose heart is just and pure,
And filled with perfect charity,
That all things doth endure.

I like a land where freedom reigns,
In glory and in might;
And justice well her cause maintains,
To all an equal right.

I like a man in office high,
Both honest, great, and bold,
Who will not sell my liberty,
For honour, fear, or gold.

I like a noble hearted man,
Who scorns to be a slave,
Who never will—nor ever can,
Submit this side the grave.

I like a Gospel full and free,
Where gifts and grace abound,
And filled with light and liberty,
And this the Saints have found.

I like a God who has not changed,
From what he was of yore;
What he was then, the same remains,
Now and forever more.

T. POTTER, PRINTER, 4, BARKER POOL, SHEFFIELD.